

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA-E PACIFIC COD FISHERY UPDATE PARALLEL SEASON REMAINS OPEN TO JIG GEAR STATE-WATERS SEASON REMAINS OPEN TO LONGLINE AND POT GEAR

This fisheries update provides information on the status of Pacific cod fisheries in the Prince William Sound Area (PWS).

The **PWS parallel Pacific cod season will remain open to vessels fishing with jig gear** until closed by emergency order (EO). The parallel Pacific cod season opened to jig gear on January 1 by EO (#2-GF-E-01-13) concurrent with the initial or "A" season in the adjacent federal Central Gulf of Alaska Regulatory Area (CGOA) which remains open. The federal "A" season will close and the "B" season will immediately open at 12:00 noon on June 10 in the CGOA. Therefore, the parallel Pacific cod season will remain open to jig gear through the federal transition from the "A" to the "B" season, until closed by EO.

The **PWS state-waters Pacific cod season will remain open to vessels fishing with longline or pot gear** until closed by EO. The PWS state-waters Pacific cod season opened to vessels fishing with pot gear at 12:00 noon on February 11 (EO#2-GF-E-04-13) and to vessels fishing with longline gear at 12:00 noon March 28 (EO#2-GF-E-05-13) with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 1.78 million pounds. Currently, 1.27 million pounds have been harvested. The season will close by EO to vessels fishing with longline gear when 85% of the GHL (1.51 million pounds) has been achieved and to vessels fishing with pot gear when 90% of the GHL (1.60 million pounds) has been achieved. If there is GHL remaining after September 1, it may become available to all legal gear groups.

A vessel may not simultaneously participate in a state-waters season and any other concurrent Pacific cod season, including those in federal waters.

Big skate closed to retention as bycatch in PWS waters by EO (#2-GF-E-06-13) on May 9, and lingcod may not be retained prior to the opening of the directed fishery on July 1, 2013.

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